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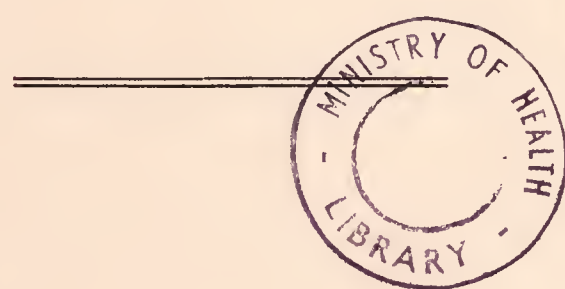
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18 RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of the
RURAL DISTRICT



FOR THE YEAR

1957

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1957

PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 1957

MR. H. S. BEALE (Chairman).
 MR. H. W. BROOKS (Vice-Chairman).
 MAJOR COLIN ZIEGLER, D.S.O., J.P., D.L., C.C.
 DR. A. T. WESTLAKE.
 MR. A. V. ALEXANDER, J.P.
 DR. A. W. BROWN.
 MR. H. CLEMENT BROWN.
 MR. W. C. CURRY, M.C.
 MR. W. J. DAVIES.
 MR. A. J. FRAMPTON.
 MRS. D. GRAHAM BROWN.
 MRS. H. POWYS GREENWOOD.
 MRS. A. T. MORLEY HEWITT.
 MR. H. A. KING.
 MR. G. K. LLOYD.
 MRS. C. MEESON.
 LT. COL. SIR GEORGE MEYRICK, BT., J.P., D.L.
 MR. G. C. L. PAYNE.
 MR. A. G. PIKE.
 MISS L. M. ROWLEY.
 MAJOR W. B. SHAKESPEAR.
 MR. J. W. SHUTLER.
 MR. V. C. SIMMONDS.
 MR. J. T. WALLIS.
 MRS. R. M. WATSON.
 MR. C. WHEELER.
 MR. H. F. WILSON.
 MR. H. S. WRIGHT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

D. J. N. MCNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and an
 Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor:

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

W. W. DYSON, Cert. R.S.I.
 J. P. EMERSON, Cert. R.S.I.
 C. KERSWILL, Cert. R.S.I. (resigned 29. 6. 57)
 D. W. SILLIFANT, Cert. R.S.I. (appointed 21. 8. 57).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

I submit for your information and consideration my eleventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District.

Natural and Social Conditions:

The Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge forms the south western boundary of the Administrative County of Hampshire. It extends for some sixteen miles, and contains the whole course of the Hampshire Avon until it reaches the boundary of the coastal town of Christchurch. To the east it includes part of the New Forest, to the west it is contiguous with the heaths of Dorset, to the north it abuts on the chalk downs of Wiltshire, and to the south it comes within a mile of the sea. The river valley is fertile but there is much barren heath land on either side.

The District contains sixteen parishes with a total area of 90,139 acres, approximately 140 square miles. The population, now 25,180, has risen, but slowly, in the last four years.

The main industry is agriculture, with particular emphasis on dairy farming. In addition, there is a major aircraft factory, a large foundry producing motor car parts, a considerable amount of light industry, and much delving for gravel with resultant sterilisation of large areas.

RAINFALL FOR 1957:

	<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>
January	3.12	July	4.10
February	4.99	August	2.79
March	2.61	September	3.19
April	0.27	October	2.91
May	1.97	November	2.50
June	1.47	December	3.22
TOTAL 33.14 ins.			

GENERAL STATISTICS:

AREA: 90,139 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1957:
25,180.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 8,015.

RATEABLE VALUE: at 31.12.57: £304,510.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE: £1,268. 15s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957: (as supplied by the Registrar-General):

				<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
LIVE BIRTHS:						
Total	..	..	..	368	186	182
Legitimate	..	..	..	350	177	173
Illegitimate	..	..	..	18	9	9
STILL BIRTHS						
Total	..	..	..	7	6	1
Legitimate	..	..	..	7	6	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
DEATHS:						
Total	..	..	..	475	177	298
INFANT MORTALITY:						
<i>(Deaths under 1 year of age)</i>						
Total	..	..	..	11	9	2
Legitimate	..	..	..	8	6	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	3	3	—
<i>(Deaths under 4 weeks of age)</i>						
Total	..	..	..	5	4	1
Legitimate	..	..	..	4	3	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	1	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY:						
Deaths from puerperal causes				—	—	—

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

		Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District	England and Wales
BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.12)			
per 1000, estimated population	..	14.6	16.1
after application of comparability factor	.. .. .	16.4	—
STILL-BIRTH RATE:			
per 1,000 estimated population	..	0.28	0.37
per 1,000 total (live and still births)	..	18.5	22.4
DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.53)			
per 1,000 estimated population	..	18.9	11.5
after application of comparability factor	.. .. .	10.0	—
INFANT MORTALITY RATE:			
<i>(Under one year of age)</i>			
All causes per 1,000 live births	..	29.9	23.0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Under 4 weeks of age)

All causes per 1,000 live births .. 13.6 16.5

ILLEGITIMACY RATE:

per 1,000 live births 48.9 46.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 total (live and still births) — 0.47

SPECIAL CAUSES:

Death Rate per 1,000 population

Whooping Cough — 0.00

Diphtheria — 0.00

Influenza 0.12 0.16

Acute Poliomyelitis 0.04 —

Pneumonia 0.79 0.56

Tuberculosis 0.12 0.11

Cancer (lung and bronchus) .. 0.67 0.43

(all causes) 3.06 2.09

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS :

(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Population	Ringwood and Fordingbridge			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	18,400	60	15.4	12.6	65	15.3	12
1936	18,640	48	13.3	13.1	59	14.8	12.1
1940	20,430	45	14.1	13.2	55	14.6	14.3
1944	19,520	25	16.2	12.6	46	17.6	11.6
1948	22,270	28	20.3	10.8	34	17.9	10.8
1952	24,060	28	16.2	12.4	27	15.3	11.3
1953	24,720	34	16.6	14.5	27	15.5	11.4
1954	24,610	15	13.4	12.9	25	15.2	11.3
1955	24,760	24	13.4	15.2	24.9	15.0	11.7
1956	25,000	27	15.0	19.4	23.8	15.7	11.7
1957	25,180	30	14.6	18.9	23.0	16.1	11.5

CAUSES OF DEATH:

					Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	..	..	..	—	—

7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases			..	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	5	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus			..	13	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	16
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			..	12	22
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	—	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	26	60
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	31	26
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	5	9
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	25	66
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	9	17
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	7	13
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	4	5
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	..	..	..	4	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	2	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			..	10	31
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..	..	4	2
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	7	4
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	3	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	—
TOTAL (All Causes) ..					177	298

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

This was a Measles year and the expected high incidence of Measles occurred. The outbreak commenced in May, reached its peak in July, and by the end of August had almost ceased throughout the district, except for a belated outbreak in the Damerham area towards the end of the year. In spite of the large number of cases no death was reported.

The incidence of other notifiable disease was exceptionally low.

Only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred. This was a doctor on leave from the Colonial Medical Service in Nigeria, who developed his symptoms about ten days after his arrival by air in this country. Unfortunately he developed a severe respiratory paralysis, and in spite of all the efforts of the medical and nursing team at the special respiratory paralysis unit in Portsmouth, he died nearly four weeks after the onset. His range of contacts was small and no associated cases are known to have occurred. He is presumed to have acquired his infection abroad.

Notifications	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	
		Ringwood & Fordingbridge	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	5	0.19	0.66
Whooping Cough	11	0.44	1.89
Diphtheria	—	—	0.00
Erysipelas	1	0.04	0.08
Measles	448	17.79	14.11
Pneumonia	32	1.27	0.73
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	0.04	0.07
(Non-Paralytic)	—	—	0.04
Meningococcal infection	—	—	0.02
Food Poisoning	4	0.16	0.20
Dysentery	4	0.16	0.64

ASIAN INFLUENZA:

A world wide epidemic of mild influenza occurred during the year. In common with the rest of Europe, this Country became infected and in turn this District. First cases were reported here in September, it was widespread in October, by November it was already beginning to subside. In most cases the illness was mild and shortlived, but in some, convalescence was prolonged. There was no increase in the death rate from influenza.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION:

There has been some falling off in the number of children immunised for the first time, and in fact the total is the lowest since 1947. This is due largely to a decrease in the number of immunisations by General Practitioners. With the many different kinds of inoculation now available, it seems inevitable that inoculation against a disease which has now become rare should be less popular.

Moreover, in July, the Ministry of Health issued a circular warning against the use of combined vaccines, particularly in the summer. This may mean that inoculation against diphtheria, if due in the summer, will be deferred, and a convenient opportunity may never again occur.

242 children were immunised for the first time, of whom 198 were under five, and 44 over five. 379 children received boosting doses. 48% of children born within the previous 12 months have been immunised. The majority of those receiving primary courses were also immunised against whooping cough and tetanus at the same time.

The following table sets out the number of children in the District who have been immunised against diphtheria. Treatment carried out prior to 1946 is not included because the records of that period are in an incomplete form.

Number of children in the District on 31st December, 1957, who have completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1943 and 31st December, 1957:

Age on 31.12.57 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1957	1-4 1953-1956	5-9 1948-1952	10-14 1943-1947	Under 15 Total
A. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1953-1957	21	824	1237	981	3063
B. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1943-1952	—	—	515	967	1482

TUBERCULOSIS:

The clinic facilities for the diagnosis and the home observation and treatment of tuberculous patients throughout the District are unchanged. Cases south of Fordingbridge come under the care of the Chest Physician at Christchurch, Dr. Stuart Robertson, and those in the northern part of the area under Dr. J. S. Harper, Chest Physician at Salisbury.

There was a reduction in the number of cases notified to a record low total. I should like to feel that this was in keeping with the general trend in this infection, but it will be seen that notifications have shown fluctuations in the past, and it is perhaps too much to expect that the low figure can be maintained.

The total number on the register at 31.12.57 was 240.

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
106	79	38	17

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1947 - 1957:

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1947	.. ..	12	5	3	1	4	4	—	1
1948	.. ..	13	5	3	2	3	2	—	—
1949	.. ..	12	14	2	2	3	4	2	1
1950	.. ..	17	17	8	2	4	5	1	—
1951	.. ..	8	8	4	1	2	2	—	1
1952	.. ..	11	13	3	—	—	—	—	1
1953	.. ..	9	6	1	2	1	1	—	—
1954	.. ..	9	5	2	1	4	2	—	—
1955	.. ..	7	7	—	—	—	1	—	—
1956	.. ..	8	3	1	1	1	2	—	—
1957	.. ..	4	3	1	—	1	1	1	—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

No visit of the Mass Radiography Unit was made to the District during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE:

The Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners, has concluded another successful year. The income of the Committee, largely derived from the sale of Christmas Seals, has been well maintained. The amount of money spent, £300, and the number of cases assisted, 40, show a reduction from the previous year's record totals. This is to be expected in view of the continued success in the treatment and control of this disease. However, many old-standing chronic cases with much lung damage remain, and these are likely to require help in years to come. The Committee cannot, therefore, relax its efforts yet. Major F. A. L. Lawrence continues as Hon. Secretary, and Lt. Col. M. E. Morgan as Hon. Treasurer.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION:

Vaccination figures in the District remain exceedingly poor in comparison with most other Districts in the County, though in common with other Districts there was some improvement during the year. None the less only 46.7% of babies under one year were vaccinated which compares unfavourably with the County average of 65.8% in Rural Districts, and 68.5% in the County as a whole. Owing to the speed of modern transport there are few years in which smallpox is not introduced into this country from one of the endemic centres of the world, and, moreover, there are few countries to which one can travel without showing evidence of recent vaccination. Primary vaccination in the adult or adolescent can be most unpleasant, and is not without danger. Infant vaccination is a measure which is still strongly advised.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION:

Poliomyelitis vaccination proceeded slowly during the year owing to the rate at which vaccine became available. Of the 482 children originally registered in March 1956, only 46 were inoculated in that year. A further 215 were completed during this year and there were a number at the end of the year who had had one injection and were completed early in 1958.

A new registration was called for during the year, closing in July and including those born in 1952 and 1953, in addition to the original period of 1947 to 1954. Registration was continued after July covering children from six months to fifteen years, expectant mothers, and certain other priority groups.

AMBULANCE SERVICES:

The Ambulance Service in the area is run by the County Council from a Main Station at "Hillcroft," New Street, Lymington. There is a sub-station at Christchurch, and further sub-stations at Ringwood and New Milton, but in order that calls can be properly correlated, all requests for transport have to be made to the Main Station — Telephone Number Lymington 2331.

HOME HELP SERVICE:

The Home Help Service is provided by the County Council and is under the local administration of the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Miss M. P. Stevens, Druitt Building, Christchurch. Telephone: Christchurch 900.

NURSING SERVICES:

The Nursing Services are provided by the County Council and administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of Nurses and their areas:—

NORTHERN NURSING AREA.

District served	Name and Address	Service
Woodgreen, Hale and Godshill.	Miss E. Bromley, Avon View, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge. Tel. Breamore 255.	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Miss H. M. Casey, 2, Lower Bartons, Fordingbridge. Tel. Fordingbridge 2157.	HEALTH VISITOR

Fordingbridge (part of) Burgate, Rockbourne, Damerham, Martin, Sandleheath, Ashford, Highfield, Midgham, and Bleakhill.	Miss I. Durley Nurse's House, Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge. Tel. Fordingbridge 3185	NURSE/MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
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Fordingbridge (part of) Bickton, Blissford, Frogham, Hyde, Hungerford, North and South Gorley, Harbridge Green, Plumley.	Miss H. M. Casey, 2, Lower Bartons, Fordingbridge. Tel. Fordingbridge 2157.	NURSE/MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
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SOUTHERN NURSING AREA.

District Served	Name and Address	Service
Ringwood (part of) Hightown, Moortown, Kingston, Lower Kingston, Bisterne, Upper and Lower Bisterne, Crow and Crow Hill, Foulford.	Miss R. Howick, 55, Manor Road, Ringwood. Tel. Ringwood 565.	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Mrs. E. E. Arnold, 17, Kingsway, Ferndown, Dorset. Tel. Ferndown 318.	HEALTH VISITOR

Ringwood (part of) Blashford, Ellingham, Ibsley, Mockbeggar, Linwood, Rockford, Poulner, Highwood, Linford, and Shobley.	Miss M. Hoffman, c/o Mrs. Cameron, "Northfield," North Poulner Road, Ringwood. Tel. Ringwood 673.	NURSE/MIDWIFE
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Mrs. E. E. Arnold.	HEALTH VISITOR.
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Ringwood (part of) St. Leonards & St. Ives, Ashley — Ashley Heath, Nea Heath, Harefield, Somerley, Matchams Estate.	Miss M. Pierssene, Ferndale Villa, St. Ives, Ringwood. Tel. Ringwood 319	NURSE/MIDWIFE.
	Mrs. E. E. Arnold.	HEALTH VISITOR

Burley, Picket Post, Thorney Hill.	Miss M. Winder, 2, Meyrick Close, Bransgore (pro tem) Tel. Bransgore 505	NURSE/MIDWIFE.
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Mrs. E. E. Arnold	HEALTH VISITOR
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Bransgore, Sopley, Ripley, Avon, Winkton, Waterditch, Godwinscroft, Neacroft, Holmsley.	Miss P. Crawley Nurse's Cottage, Shirley, Bransgore. Tel. Bransgore 293.	NURSE/MIDWIFE
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Miss M. Morris, 31, Twynham Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. Tel. Southbourne 47209.	HEALTH VISITOR
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SCHOOLS:

Continued progress is being made in the modernisation of our schools. Two further schools, Sopley and Thorney Hill, were equipped with water borne sanitation and more wash hand basins were made available.

There remain nine schools with bucket sanitation.

The new Secondary School at Fordingbridge was officially opened in July.

A new Secondary School is in the course of construction at Ringwood.

School meals are available at all schools.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS:

Five County Council Child Welfare Centres are held in the District. Each is attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer and the Health Visitor whose area the Centre serves. Voluntary committees maintain the records and manage the sale and distribution of welfare foods and medicaments. I wish again to express our gratitude for the work of these local committees.

Child Welfare Centre	Place	Time
Breamore	Woodgreen Hall	First Thursday in month at 2-30 p.m.
Fordingbridge	Victoria Rooms	First and Third Tuesday in month at 2-30 p.m.
Ringwood	Conway Hall	First and Third Wednesdays in month at 2.-30 p.m.
Bransgore	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Fridays in month at 2-30 p.m.
Hurn	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Wednesdays in month at 2-30 p.m.

A further Centre is conducted at Burley by a local general practitioner, largely for the benefit of his own patients.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

Constituent laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service are situated at Boscombe and at Salisbury. The Boscombe Laboratory remains under the direction of Dr. G. J. G. King, and at Salisbury Dr. M. S. Pereira has been succeeded by Dr. P. J. Wormald. Bacteriological specimens from the Public Health Department or from private doctors are examined free of charge, and the Directors act as consultants on epidemiological matters.

The following specimens, emanating from this District, were examined at the Boscombe Laboratory during 1957.

Sputa	..	..	..	1
Faecal and Urine	..	..	..	12
Other Human	..	..	..	1
Water	..	..	..	30
Milk	..	..	..	48
Ice Cream	..	..	..	16
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	34
				<hr/>
				142
				<hr/>

WATER SUPPLIES:

The District is supplied with water from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated in the Borough of Christchurch. The raw water is drawn from the Avon at Christchurch where it is treated by slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition, the Company has developed a new source of supply at Hale Park where water is drawn from 300 feet boreholes in the chalk. This water is chloraminated and the whole installation is fully automatic. The electric pumps are fitted with devices which cut off the supply and warn the Christchurch works in the event of a fault developing. The Hale Park source is now in full use and supplies most of this District.

Though main water is now available in a large part of Breamore, a considerable number of those to whom it is available have not connected to the supply. This is disappointing in view of the suspicious nature of some of the well waters in use. It may be necessary to take statutory action in specific instances where wells are polluted. No extension of the main supply in the area can readily be contemplated until this unsatisfactory position is remedied.

During the year, 27 samples of water were taken from sources of supply other than the mains, 11 of these were found to be polluted.

The following list gives the number of premises, in parishes, supplied with main water as noted in the Water Company's records, together with a number of converted war time huts supplied through central meters.

Parish			Dwellings supplied direct			Approximate population supplied
Martin	..	..	93			290
Rockbourne	..	..	92			287
Whitsbury	..	..	50			156
Breamore	..	..	47			147
Hale	..	..	145			452
Woodgreen	..	..	139			434
Damerham	..	..	114			356
Fordingbridge	..	..	1273			3971
Harbridge and Ibsley	..	..	103	plus	36 huts	434
Ellingham	..	..	136	„	6 „	443
St. Leonards and St. Ives	..	..	552			1722
Ringwood	..	..	2312			7213
Burley	..	..	494			1541
Hurn	..	..	58	„	37 „	296
Sopley	..	..	221	„	25 „	767
Christchurch East	..	..	941	„	83 „	3195

SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

No alteration has taken place during the year at the Ringwood Sewage Works. The disposal of the settled effluent by land irrigation continues to present the utmost difficulty owing to the increased quantities reaching the works, and the relative impermeability of the soil after many years of use. Pollution of the surrounding water-courses remains a constant danger in periods of wet weather.

A scheme is in the course of preparation for full treatment of the sewage and discharge of a purified effluent to the Avon.

The Fordingbridge Scheme is operating satisfactorily.

Effluent disposal at a number of your isolated Council Estates remains a problem.

The proposed construction of a new sewage works in Stony Lane for Christchurch Borough, has afforded a convenient opportunity to sewer the Burton area where there are serious problems of drainage, notably at Whitehayes. The consultants to the Christchurch Scheme are preparing plans, and successful negotiations have taken place with Christchurch Corporation with a view to sharing the works on a basis proportional to the populations served.

MILK AND DAIRIES:

Milk production in the area is supervised by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Retail Distribution is supervised by officers of this Council. Pasteurisation plants are the responsibility of the County Council and on its behalf your officers supervise the one plant which exists in the District. Samples are sent regularly to the Laboratory to check the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The plant is satisfactorily operated.

The following details of milk production in the District have been kindly supplied by the Divisional Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Parish	T.T	Undesignated	Registered Producers
Martin	9	2	11
Rockbourne	11	1	12
Whitsbury	4	—	4
Breamore	15	—	15
Hale	10	—	10
Woodgreen	3	—	3
Damerham... .. .	9	2	11
Fordingbridge	43	3	46
Harbridge and Ibsley	15	2	17
Ellingham	14	2	16
St. Leonards and St. Ives	11	—	11
Ringwood	32	—	32
Burley	9	—	9
Hurn	7	—	7
Sopley	24	2	26
Christchurch East	29	2	31
	<u>245</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>261</u>

The following table shows the milk production since 1949 when the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944, came into force with its associated Regulations.

	1949	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Registered Producers	302	288	291	281	275	261
Holders of						
T.T. Licences	88	145	212	220	242	245
Holders of						
Accredited Licences	48	41	—	—	—	—

The progressive rise in the number of T.T. Licences is most satisfactory, and it is apparent that little effort is now necessary to convert the District into a T.T. area. Already 93.9% of the producers hold T.T. Licences.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES:

The only slaughter house in the area, that at Ringwood, continues to be used by a syndicate of local butchers.

A considerable amount of the meat produced is for consumption outside the district. The number of animals killed increased by 550 to 4,383. There was a rise in the proportion of small animals.

When the slaughter house was taken over by the syndicate in June 1954, from the Ministry of Food, it was hoped that there would be a reduction in the amount of slaughtering; the establishment was felt to be ill suited for the bulk killings then in force. In fact, a

reduction did take place and the proportion of small animals tended to increase. The figures are, however, progressively rising; on only one occasion since the war has this year's total been substantially exceeded. The slaughter house is poor by modern slaughter house standards and is ill sited amidst residential property.

MEAT INSPECTION:

Inspection of all carcasses is carried out by your inspectors. Some of the work is done outside normal working hours. The total amount of meat condemned fell again from the 3 tons 16 cwt. of last year to 2 tons 4 cwt., and the amount condemned owing to tuberculosis, $10\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., was only a quarter of the amount condemned last year from this cause.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1957.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	454	35	886	501	2507	—
Number inspected	454	35	886	501	2507	—
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	11	—	20	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	101	5	2	30	186	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	22.2	14.2	1.4	5.9	8.2	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	1	—	—	49	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.9	2.8	—	—	1.9	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or or organ was condemned	14	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	14	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

The Food Hygiene Regulations have now been in force for two years. Your inspectors are conducting a systematic survey of all premises which are subject to these regulations, and are ensuring that traders understand the obligations laid upon them. Where necessary, structural alterations are being put in hand and new equipment ordered. Continued supervision of premises will be necessary to ensure that the precautions set out in the regulations are observed. The whole purpose of the regulations is to reduce the still rising incidence of food poisoning. The human factor remains the most potent source of danger and the most difficult to control. It is in this connexion that the public health inspector has such an invaluable role as a health educator.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS:

The County Council is the sampling authority and the following details of substances sampled within this area during the year ended 31st March, 1958, have been kindly supplied by the Chief Inspector, Mr. C. O. Perry.

Article	No. Taken	
	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter and Other Fats	3	—
Drugs	2	—
Milk, Channel Islands	30	—
Milk	55	—
Sausage, Meat and Fish Products ..	6	—
Spirits	5	—
Other Foods	9	—
	110	—

The 30 Channel Islands Milk samples proved to contain an average of 4.39 % Fat and 9.04 % Non-Fatty Solids and the 55 milk samples an average of 3.90 % Fat and 8.85 % Non-Fatty Solids.

FOOD POISONING:

The four cases of food poisoning notified were all derived from one incident. The cause was found to be cooked ham purchased from a grocer in the area. The ham was cooked on premises not registered for this purpose and which were in fact in such a state that they would not have been approved had registration been sought. Urgent measures were taken to bring the premises up to the standard required by the Food Hygiene regulations.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47:

Three old women were considered for action under this Section. In two cases it was not felt that the circumstances warranted the use of compulsory powers under the Act. In the other the circumstances more than justified the use of compulsory powers of removal, but it was possible to persuade the woman to enter hospital voluntarily, where she eventually died.

GIPSY CAMPS:

There has been no material change in the various camps in the District.

At Thorney Hill Compound there are still eight families, comprising 42 persons.

HOUSING:

The amount of new Council House construction has been somewhat similar to that of the previous year, but there has been a big reduction in the number of families occupying hutted accommodation. Originally the Ministry of Housing and Local Government decreed that all huts were to be closed by the end of 1958. This period has been extended owing to difficulties caused by the "Credit Squeeze".

At the end of the year there were still 129 families in huts, and these included a number of gipsy type who would not readily fit in to a normal Council Estate. The housing of such families presents many difficulties. A proposal to erect sub-standard accommodation has been rejected by the Ministry, and there is therefore, no alternative but to provide houses which comply with Ministry standards. The houses might perhaps be less elaborate internally but would be nearly as costly to build as the normal house, and indeed, because the average gipsy family is large, it would be necessary to provide a large house, the resultant rent of which might prove prohibitive. The siting of such houses raises objections from those who live in the area proposed, and no site has yet been found which has met with approval.

The County Welfare Department has continued to direct its attention towards Council Tenants, principally hut dwellers who have a bad rent record, with a view to avoiding their eviction; and also to ensuring that tenants are not ineligible for rehousing in due course, owing to rent arrears. A considerable measure of success is being achieved.

No. on Housing Waiting List 31.12.57...	Approx. 267
	(including hut occupants)
No. of Council Houses completed in 1957	.. 62
No. of Private Houses completed in 1957	.. 180

DWELLINGS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNCIL AT 31.12.57:

Permanent houses	..	..	..	..	924
Prefabs	..	..	..	..	50
Huts (family units)	..	..	..	..	129

PROBLEM FAMILIES MEETINGS:

During the year four meetings took place under my Chairmanship of an informal committee comprised of workers associated with difficult families. The membership included representatives from the County Welfare Department, Children's Department, National Assistance Board, N.S.P.C.C., Probation Officers, Education Welfare Officers, Moral Welfare Worker, Housing Officer, Health Visitors, Home Help Service, and a few District Councillors with special interest in these families. The discussion ranged over a wide field and much was gained by the resultant pooling of information. It was possible to ensure that special attention was given where it was most needed and reduplication of effort could be avoided.

HURN AIRPORT:

The Airport continues to act as a diversion airport for the receipt of traffic which is unable to land in the London area, largely owing to fog. There has been a steady reduction in this traffic in recent years, presumably as the result of improved landing aids, and when Gatwick is in full use it may be that diversions will still further decrease.

Emergency port health duties and the medical inspection of aliens were again carried out by Dr. W. D. Higson, Dr. C. Conyers Morrell, Dr. D. MacIntyre, and myself.

Extensive use of the Airport is made by aircraft manufacturers for testing purposes, and a considerable amount of flying training and ground control instruction is carried out. Internal scheduled and chartered flights are increasing.

The following table shows the arrivals of diverted aircraft requiring the presence of a medical officer.

ARRIVALS, 1957.

Month	No. of aircraft	No. of crew	No. of British Passengers	No. of Alien Passengers
March	2	10	14	19
April	1	10	20	3
July	1	5	23	—
TOTAL	4	25	57	22

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year.

This being a "Measles year" the expected high incidence of the disease occurred. Infectious disease was otherwise negligible.

The estimated population increased by 180 to 25,180.

The Birth Rate showed a small decrease.

The Infant Mortality Rate again increased slightly.

The Crude Death Rate remains high due to deaths of long stay patients in institutions for the aged or chronic sick. This situation is taken into account by the Registrar General in calculating our comparability factor of 0.53. This produces a corrected death rate which is well below the national figure.

Conditions at the Ringwood Sewage Works are unchanged.

Steady progress is being made with housing but there are still considerable difficulties, particularly in relation to the housing of certain hut dwellers.

In closing this report, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and encouragement, my fellow officers in other departments for their advice and assistance, and Mr. Upstone and his staff for their unfailing co-operation.

D. J. N. McNAB,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1958.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1957 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	118	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	141	8	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND: NIL.

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in Aug. list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of pro- secutions for failure to supply lists	No. of in- stances of work in un- wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	55	—	—	—	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1957

Public Offices,
Ringwood, June, 1958

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor dealing with the work carried out by my Department during the year 1957.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Housing Acts	..	..	..	760
Rent Act	..	..	..	46
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	6
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	235
Gipsy Camps	..	..	..	13
Nuisances and Complaints	..	..	..	273
Water Supplies	..	..	..	106
Meat and Other Foods	..	..	..	592
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	7
Food and Drugs	..	..	..	564
Watercress Beds	..	..	..	14
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	41
Shops Act	..	..	..	8
Factories Act	..	..	..	8
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	13
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	11
National Assistance Act	..	..	..	4
Rodent Control	..	..	..	3335
Ringwood Sewerage	..	..	..	100
Fordingbridge Sewerage	..	..	..	100
Trade Effluents	..	..	..	5
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	100
Other Services administered by Council	..	..	..	235
Petroleum and Carbide	..	..	..	219
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	3074
New Street Byelaws	..	..	..	74
Town and Country Planning	..	..	..	313
Estate Maintenance	..	..	..	3724
Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Act	..	..	..	93
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act	..	..	..	12
Legal Proceedings	..	..	..	45
Diversion of Footpaths	..	..	..	18
Land Charges	..	..	..	60
Air Raid Shelters	..	..	..	6
Unclassifiable Inspections	..	..	..	285
				14,499

HOUSING.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The work of slum clearance proceeded during the year and the parishes of Damerham, Rockbourne and Whitsbury were surveyed for unfit houses.

Although most of the cottages inspected lacked such amenities as drainage, sinks, food stores etc., very few were found to be so bad as to require immediate consideration for demolition.

The Clearance Order in respect of seven cottages at Martin was confirmed by the Minister and the Council provided alternative accommodation by the erection of four 1-bedroom flats and four 2-bedroom bungalows.

The Council's programme for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition, submitted to the Minister in 1956 was as follows:—

1. Estimated number of houses (excluding huts) unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 (now Sections 16 and 42 of the Housing Act, 1957)	400
2. Period necessary for securing the demolition or re-conditioning of all these houses	15 years
3. Number of houses to be included in Clearance Areas (Section 25) and demolished within 5 years	15
4. Number of houses to be dealt with as individual unfit houses (Section 11) and demolished within 5 years	50

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

The work of making detailed inspections of unfit houses continued throughout the year and reports made to the Housing Committee in respect of 23 houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being made fit.

The following summary shews the number of dwellings dealt with by demolition, closing and repair under the Housing and Public Health Acts for the years 1954 to 1957 inclusive.

	1957	1956	1955	1954
1. Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5	25	8	1
2. Houses demolished	7	2	5	8
3. Unfit houses closed on undertakings	14	8	1	4
4. Unfit houses made fit				
(a) by informal action	28	26	24	7
(b) by formal action	0	1	3	0

A total of 382 visits and inspections was made.

The Housing Act, 1957 came into operation on the 1st September, and repeals and re-enacts in consolidated form the provisions of the earlier Housing Acts.

Section 4 defines matters to be taken into account in determining whether a house is unfit, as follows:—

“In determining for any of the purposes of this Act whether a house is unfit for human habitation, regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the following matters, that is to say :

- (a) repair
- (b) stability
- (c) freedom from damp
- (d) natural lighting
- (e) ventilation
- (f) water supply
- (g) drainage and sanitary conveniences
- (h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water.

and the house shall be deemed to be unfit for human habitation if and only if it is so far defective in one or more of the said matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition.”

Section 9 empowers a local authority to require the repair of any unfit house unless satisfied that it is not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit. Sections 16 and 17 deal with unfit houses not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit and provide for the acceptance of undertakings for carrying out works for rendering such houses fit or for preventing their use for human habitation until rendered fit; where no such undertakings are accepted by a local authority a demolition order must be made or a closing order where demolition would adversely affect adjoining property.

Section 18 provides for the making of closing orders in respect of part of a building and underground rooms.

Section 42 empowers a local authority to declare an area to be a clearance area where (a) the houses in that area are unfit for human habitation, or are by reason of their bad arrangement, or the narrowness or bad arrangement of the streets, dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants of the area, and that the other buildings, if any, in the area are for a like reason dangerous or injurious to the health of the said inhabitants; and

- (b) that the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions in the area is the demolition of all the buildings in the area.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act came into force on the 6th July. Its two main effects are to free from rent control houses and flats above certain levels of rateable value and to allow limited increases in the rents of houses still under rent control.

15 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received up to the end of the year; in three instances landlords submitted undertakings to carry out repairs. A total of 9 Certificates of Disrepair were issued. One Certificate was subsequently cancelled following the remedying of the defects specified therein.

46 inspections were made under this Act.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS.

40 preliminary enquiries were received during the year in respect of grants. 19 formal applications were approved for 21 units of accommodation, all were improvements of existing individual dwellings with the exception of two cases where houses were being converted into flats. The value of the grants made was £4,545. A total of 378 visits and inspections were made.

In October the Council resolved to discontinue all Improvement Grants for a period of six months in view of the increased interest rates for borrowing and restrictions on capital expenditure.

At the 31st December, 1957 the total grants made by the Council since the inception of the scheme amounted to £27,756 allowing for grants withdrawn or repaid.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No. of licences for sites on register	24 (161 moveable dwellings)
No. of licences for moveable dwellings (other than sites) on register	56 (61 moveable dwellings)
Applications for licences received during the year	34
No. of inspections made	235

The Public Health Committee agreed to change the policy governing the granting of licences for moveable dwellings and new standard conditions for site licences were adopted.

Licences authorising persons to allow land occupied by them to be used as sites for moveable dwellings (site licences) are now restricted to bona fide caravan and camping sites. In other cases licences are granted for the erection or stationing of moveable dwellings. In the past site licences were issued in every instance.

The new conditions for site licences cover the number of caravans permitted and distances apart; hard standings; water supply and standpipes; sanitary accommodation; disposal of waste water; disposal of refuse; access paths and general condition of sites.

Proceedings were successfully instituted in one case where land was used as sites for moveable dwellings without a licence.

GISPY CAMPS.

There are a number of small gipsy encampments in the district including one on Forestry Commission land at Thorney Hill totalling some 8 families. 13 inspections of sites were made during the year.

COMPLAINTS.

45 complaints were received during the year involving a total of 273 visits and inspections — details are as follows:—

Nature of nuisance				Complaints Received	Number of visits
Insanitary conditions .. .. .	..	..	..	5	21
Unsatisfactory and insufficient water supplies	..		..	1	7
Dust, effluvia or smoke .. .. .	..	..	..	1	2
Flea or fly infestations .. .. .	..	..	..	2	17
Offensive smells .. .. .	..	..	..	9	18
Offensive accumulations .. .. .	..	..	..	2	12
Cesspools and drains .. .. .	..	..	..	12	134
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	..	..	..	1	5
Rats and Mice .. .. .	..	..	..	3	—
Animals .. .. .	..	..	..	3	18
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	6	39
				45	273

It was necessary to serve Statutory Notices under Sections 92-93 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in two instances — one in respect of a dust nuisance arising from clay grinding was not complied with and proceedings were instituted under Section 94.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In one instance it proved necessary to serve a Notice under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 as amended by Section 30

of the Water Act, 1945. This was in respect of a farmhouse and although the owners failed to comply with the Notice the Committee decided against carrying out the works as the cost would have been greatly in excess of £20 which is the maximum amount the Council may recover if they themselves provide the necessary supply. Eventually after some six months correspondence the owners had the main supply laid on the premises.

Number of samples collected	.. ..	27
Number of visits and inspections (excluding visits made following complaints)	.. ..	106

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Ringwood Slaughter House remains under the control and operation of the Local Butchers' Association.

MINISTRY OF FOOD FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME.

DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION OF PIGS.

The Ministry of Food continues to use the Ringwood Slaughter House as a Deadweight Certification Centre with the Council's Meat Inspectors acting as Certifying Officers.

The following table shews the details of the Certificates issued since the scheme came into operation :

	1957	1956	1955	1954
Certificates issued	572	470	445	167
No. of pigs covered by certificates	1713	1357	1289	412

ANIMAL CARCASSES.

Inspections are made of all animals slaughtered involving the detailed examination of carcasses and offal. 541 visits were made for this purpose.

The total number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughter House was 4383 made up as follows

Cattle excluding cows	..	454
Cows	.. ..	35
Calves	.. ..	886
Sheep and lambs	.. ..	501
Pigs	.. ..	2507
		<hr/>
		4383

As a result of these examinations 4932 lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption: diseases and weights are:

Disease or Condition				Weight in lbs.
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1170
Distomatosis	..	..	..	796
Oedema..	..	..	..	422
Swine Erysipelas	..	..	..	347
Parasites	..	..	..	432
Abscess	..	..	..	215
Peritonitis	..	..	..	212
C. Bovis	..	..	..	162
Decomposition	..	..	..	137
Toxaemia	..	..	..	106
Pyaemia	..	..	..	112
Umbilical Pyaemia	..	..	..	97
Telangiectasis	..	..	..	96
Bruising	..	..	..	95
Cirrhosis	..	..	..	79
Enteritis	..	..	..	60
Ascites ..	..	..	..	59
Pneumonia	..	..	..	56
Jaundice	..	..	..	49
Fevered	..	..	..	46
Swine Fever	..	..	..	45
Uraemia	..	..	..	34
Emaciation	..	..	..	24
Tumours	..	..	..	17
Pleurisy	..	..	..	17
Septic infection	..	..	..	14
Pericarditis	..	..	..	13
Hydronephrosis	..	..	..	6
Congestion	..	..	..	6
Fatty degeneration	..	..	..	4
Inflammation	..	..	..	3
Infarcts	..	..	..	1
				<hr/>
				4932

In addition 5759 lbs. (C. Bovis) was later released for human consumption after the requisite period in cold storage (21 days).

Condemned meat is treated with acid green dye and disposed of to Midland Cattle Products where fat extraction and other processes are carried out and the residue used in the manufacture of fertilizers. Some livers are disposed of locally for the feeding of mink.

The following summary shows the total number of carcasses inspected and the amounts of meat condemned each year since 1950.

			No. of carcasses	Condemned Meat (lbs.)	
1957	..	..	4383	..	4,932
1956	..	..	3833	..	8,513 $\frac{1}{2}$
1955	..	..	3344	..	9,962
1954	..	..	4811	..	10,254
1953	..	..	4385	..	21,452
1952	..	..	4166	..	25,458
1951	..	..	3232	..	35,911
1950	..	..	3714	..	50,307

OTHER FOODS.

51 visits were made in connection with the examination of foodstuffs at food shops and stores, the quantities found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered were as follows:

Cinnamon	..	7 lbs.	Meat	..	59 tins
Ham	..	55 lbs.	Fish	..	4 tins
Bacon	..	20 lbs.	Fruit	..	92 tins
Rice	..	3 lbs.	Vegetables	..	32 tins
Curry	..	20 lbs.	Milk	..	6 tins
Mixed spice	..	14 lbs.	Pearl Barley	..	15 tins
Eggs	..	96 doz.			

Unsound food is disposed of by destruction and burying at the Verwood Road Refuse Dump.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and the Amendment Act, 1954 nine licences were issued to slaughtermen. One slaughter house licence was renewed and one knacker's yard licence.

Proceedings were instituted in connection with the slaughter of a calf at an unlicensed slaughter house; the slaughterman did not possess a slaughterman's licence; the calf had not been stunned by an electrically operated instrument before being killed and the necessary notice had not been given before slaughtering.

The Council agreed to adopt byelaws relating to knackers' yards based on the Ministry's Model Byelaws Series II, 1954 which cover sanitary conditions, management and keeping of records etc.

The Byelaws came into operation on the 2nd December, 1957.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

This Order became operative on the 1st June, 1957 and deals with the licensing of plant and equipment for boiling waste foods and the conveyance of waste food. The County Council is the responsible authority and the Police enforce the provisions of the various Diseases of Animals Acts, Regulations and Orders.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Proceedings were successfully instituted under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of the sale of a pork pie with a growth of mould upon the crust.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Detailed inspection of premises to which the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 apply continued throughout the year; occupiers being advised on the provisions of the Regulations and of works necessary to bring premises up to the required standard. Detailed informal notices are served subsequently.

During the year 68 premises were inspected involving the service of 63 informal notices.

The following table shews action taken since the Regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

		1957	1956
Premises inspected	..	68	65
Informal Notices served	..	63	64
Notices complied with	..	9	2

One Certificate of Exemption was issued in respect of wash-hand basin facilities.

FOOD PREMISES.

564 inspections including those under the Food Hygiene Regulations were made in connection with food premises as follows:

		No. on Register	Inspections
Food shops	.. ..	155	101
Bakehouses	.. ..	16	16
Restaurant Kitchens	.. ..	42	67
Ice Cream Premises (Sec. 16)	.. ..	96	11
Preserved Food Premises (Sec. 16)	.. ..	18	2
Licensed Premises	.. ..	51	22
Market Stalls	.. ..		310
General	.. ..		35
			<hr/> 564

ICE CREAM.

16 samples of Ice Cream were collected during the year for bacteriological examination and Methylene Blue Test involving 11 visits. The samples were graded by the Bacteriologist as follows :

Grade 1	..	..	..	15
Grade 2	..	..	..	1
Grade 3	..	..	..	—
Grade 4	..	..	..	—

WATERCRESS BEDS.

During the year seven samples of water and two of watercress were collected for analysis. 14 visits and inspections were made.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of Registered Distributors	..	12
Number of Registered Dairies	..	11
New Registrations made during the year		2
Inspections made	.. ..	41
Samples of milk collected	.. ..	48

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 and 1950.

8 Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued during the year.

3 Supplementary licences were issued in respect of "Tuberculin" "Pasteurised" and "Sterilized" milk.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-53.

The Council exercises the functions of the County Council in connection with the issue of licences for pasteurising and sterilising establishments.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district licensed to retail Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised).

10 Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" were issued during the year.

SHOPS ACT.

Number on Register	.. ..	273
Inspections made	.. ..	8

The District Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

8 Certificates of Exemption respecting sanitary accommodation were issued under Section 38.

FACTORIES ACT.

The Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions dealing with cleanliness, over-crowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories not using mechanical power.

Number on Register	..	..	141
Inspections made	..	..	8

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS.

Two dealers are registered under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made	..	..	13
Premises disinfected	..	..	—
Inspections made in connection with food poisoning			11

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

The Council were required to exercise their powers under Section 50 of this Act to effect the disposal of the body of an unknown newly born male child found at St. Ives. Burial took place at Ringwood Cemetery.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council is responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and Regulations made thereunder, and is required to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that the district is free from rats and mice. One rodent operative is employed.

The following summary shews the work carried out by the Council for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1958. A total of 3335 visits and inspections were made.

	<i>Type of Property</i>		
	Dwelling houses	All other inc. Business premises	Agri- cultural premises
No. of properties in the district ..	6976	1233	828
No. of properties inspected as a result of			
(a) Notification	132	32	56
(b) Survey under the Act ..	2214	95	341
No. of inspections made by Rodent Operative including re-inspections	2451	459	425
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by			
(a) Rats — Major infestations	9	1	24
Rats — Minor infestations	543	54	196
(b) Mice — Major infestations	3	2	20
Mice — Minor infestations	165	25	193

In early autumn a steady increase in the rat population was evident and infestation throughout the district became a matter for concern. During four weeks in November the average weekly issue of warfarin poison amounted to 140 lbs., compared with 50 lbs., for the corresponding period in 1956.

The position was general throughout the county and it has been noted for some years that following a dry summer the rat population in the following winter is small whereas following a wet summer there is always a noticeable increase.

The Workable Area Committee continued to meet for the discussion of rodent control problems. The area covered by the Committee consists of the districts of Bournemouth County Borough, Christchurch Borough, Lymington Borough, New Forest Rural District and Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL.

Service	Visits made
Refuse collection and disposal ..	76
Street Cleansing	24
Ringwood Sewerage	100
Fordingbridge Sewerage	100
Public Conveniences	119
Cattle Pound	16
Car Parks	61
Ditching	8
Street Name Plates	14
Miscellaneous	17
	<hr/> 535

SEWERAGE.

RINGWOOD SEWERAGE.

Effluent disposal by land irrigation continues to be difficult especially during times of heavy or prolonged rainfall.

The preparation of a scheme for modernising the works is now in the hands of the Council's consulting engineers.

During the year 19 premises (including 8 flats) were connected to the sewers. The total number of premises connected at the end of the year was 1393 including 382 Council houses, after making allowance for cottages disconnected as a result of demolition.

The contractor responsible for preparing the land used for irrigation terminated his appointment. A new contractor (a local farmer) was appointed to undertake all necessary ploughing, cultivating, baulking out work and removal of sludge.

A short length of new sewer constructed by the developers to serve building plots in a new road off Southampton Road, Ringwood (now named Fieldway) was taken over as a Public Sewer.

The estimated daily dry weather flow at the Bickerley Pumping Station at the end of the year was 168,000 gallons.

FORDINGBRIDGE SEWER.

The sewers, pumping stations and disposal works have been satisfactorily maintained.

During the year 9 premises were connected to the sewers making a total at 31st December of 531 including 188 Council houses.

The average recorded dry weather flow at the end of the year was 60,000 gallons per 24 hours. Effluent is discharged into the River Avon and samples are taken regularly for chemical analysis. A satisfactory effluent is produced.

Difficulty is being experienced in disposing of the sludge produced at these works and advertisements in the local press have produced no enquiries.

I am experimenting with the use of substances other than ash and gravel in the sludge drying beds with a view to reducing costs and making the sludge an attractive proposition for farmers.

IBSLEY SEWERAGE.

The sewage disposal works have been efficiently maintained; the effluent discharges into the River Avon and is regularly analysed. A satisfactory effluent is produced.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE.

TOWN DRAIN, RINGWOOD.

No works of improvement or repairs were carried out during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES) ACT, 1937.

The Chrome Plating Plant at Wellworthy's, Ringwood continues to be well maintained. Samples of the effluent are collected periodically for chemical analysis and this has at all times complied with the standards imposed by the Council.

5 visits were made in connection with this effluent.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertakes a combined collection of household and unburnable refuse weekly in the lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. A collection of unburnable refuse only is carried out monthly in the remainder of the district. Receptacles have to

be placed outside the premises as near as practicable to the roadway along which the collection vehicle proceeds.

The four refuse collection vehicles covered a total mileage of 22,332 during the year compared with 21,015 for 1956. The 16/18 cu. yard Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping Freighter which was put into service in 1955 proved so successful that the Council agreed to purchase another one to replace the oldest vehicle a 1939 Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.

The following summary shews the estimated amount of refuse collected throughout the district during the past five years:—

Year	Verwood Road Dump	Sandleheath Dump	Total
1957	11,846 cu. yds.	4,641 cu. yds.	16,487
1956	11,593	4,643	16,236
1955	10,467	4,355	14,822
1954	9,697	4,127	13,824
1953	8,946	3,819	12,765

No serious refuse dump fires occurred during the year. Early on the 19th March the Verwood Road Dump was discovered to be alight but the fire had not penetrated and the Brigade was able to extinguish it.

The following schedule shews collection days throughout the district.

WEEKLY SERVICE.

Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood.

Addison Square, Bickerley, Carvers Lane, Christchurch Road, The Close, College Road, Collins Lane, Coniston Road, Coxstone Lane, Deweys Lane, Duck Island, Fridays Cross, High Street, Hightown Road from Christchurch Road to Parsonage Barn Lane, Kings Arms Lane, Kingsbury Lane, Lynes Lane, Market Place, Meeting House Lane, Middle Lane, Mount Pleasant, New Road, New Street, Northumberland Court, Nursery Road, Quomp, Riverside, School Lane, Star Lane, Strides Lane, Southampton Road from Fridays Cross to Mount Pleasant, Southfield, Top Lane, West Street, Woodstock Lane.	}	Every Monday
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Beechcroft Lane, Broadshard Lane, Cadogan Road, Cloughs Road, Eastfield Lane, East View Road, Fairlie Park, Fairlie Estate, Gipsy Lane, Gravel Lane, Hampton Drive, Highfield Avenue, Highfield Drive, Highfield Road, Hightown Road from Parsonage Barn Lane to Eastfield Lane, Hiltom Road, Hurst Corner, Hurst Road, Manor Road, Meadow Road, Merryweather Estate, Middleton Road, Morant Road, Northfield Road, North Poulner Road, Parsonage Barn Lane, Queens Way, Salisbury Road, Seymour Road, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane, Wessex Estate, Wessex Road, Westbury Road, Winston Way.	}	Every Tuesday
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Lighting Area of the Parish of Fordingbridge.

Albion Road, Alexandra Road, Ashford Road, Back Street, The Bartons, Bowerwood Road, Bridge Street, Church Street, Green Lane, High Street, Horseport, Jubilee Close, Jubilee Road, Lower Bartons, Market Place, Mud Lane, Park Road, Pennys Lane, Picket Close, Provost Street, Roundhill, Salisbury Road, Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury Street, Station Road, St. George's Road, The Square, Victoria Road, Waverley Road, Whitsbury Road.

Every
Wednesday

MONTHLY SERVICE

The whole of the parishes of	in every month
Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury	Second Thursday
Woodgreen and Hale	Second Thursday
St. Leonards & St. Ives	First Thursday
Ellingham (including the areas of Blashford, Rockford, Highwood, Linwood, Linford and Shobley)	Third Thursday
Harbridge and Ibsley (including the areas of South Gorley, Furzehill, Mockbeggar, Ibsley, Harbridge Green, Bleak Hill and Turmer)	Third Thursday
Ringwood (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of North Poulner, Hangersley, Hightown, Crow, Crow Hill, Moortown, Kingston, Sandford and Bisterne)	Fourth Thursday
Damerham and Breamore	First Friday
Fordingbridge (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of Burgate, Sandleheath, Bickton, North Gorley, Ogdens, Hungerford, Hyde, Frogham, Stuckton, Blissford and Godshill)	Second Friday
Sopley (including the areas of Avon, Ripley and Shirley) . .	First Friday
Hurn (including the areas of Parley Green and East Parley)	First Friday
Christchurch East (including the areas of Winkton, Burton, Bransgore, Neacroft, Thorneyhill and Hinton)	Third Friday
Burley (including the area of Burley Street)	Fourth Friday

STREET CLEANSING.

The Council carries out street cleansing in respect of some 11½ miles of publicly repairable roads in Ringwood and 4½ miles in Fordingbridge; the County Council contributes to the cost. This work has been maintained satisfactorily despite labour difficulties.

Additional cleansing of the Market Place, Ringwood, is necessary following the weekly Wednesday market and Messrs. Woolley and Wallis contribute to the cost.

LITTER RECEPTACLES.

8 receptacles in Ringwood Shopping Centre and 6 in Fordingbridge are provided and maintained by the Council. In addition 8 have been provided at lay-byes and bus draw-ins — 7 of these by the County Council.

STAFF — MANUAL WORKERS.

The usual labour difficulties occurred throughout the year; there were six changes in street sweepers.

The foreman-mechanic terminated his employment in November and a new deputy foreman was appointed and commenced duty on the 30th December.

COUNCIL DEPOT.

The four refuse collecting vehicles and three vans are garaged here; a 1,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tank and 300 gallon petrol tank are installed.

DITCHING.

The Town Ditch, Ringwood, was cleaned out as in past years.

Cleaning of the Town Mill and Church Square ditches at Fordingbridge has ceased to be necessary since the disconnection of sink wastes and laundry effluent therefrom.

SALVAGE.

The salvage scheme was successfully maintained throughout the year and sales produced £1135. 3s. 6d. Salvage is collected with the refuse and no additional labour is employed.

The total sum paid to the workmen for the year under the incentive bonus scheme amounted to £77. 2s. 8d. as compared with £95. in 1956.

Details of the salvage sold are shown in the following summary:

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.	No.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	142	4				785	11	9
Textiles	5	10	2			138	1	6
Ferrous	21	5	3	12		187	5	8
Miscellaneous ..	—	4	2	24	139	24	4	7
	169	5	0	8	139	1135	3	6

Salvage sales since inauguration in 1941 are shown below.

1941	..	..	..	414
1942	..	..	..	1208
1943	..	..	..	1089
1944	..	..	..	908
1945	..	..	..	574
1946	..	..	..	495
1947	..	..	..	342
1948	..	..	..	949
1949	..	..	..	740
1950	..	..	..	608
1951	..	..	..	1674
1952	..	..	..	937
1953	..	..	..	572
1954	..	..	..	669
1955	..	..	..	1280
1956	..	..	..	1249
1957	..	..	..	1135

Numerous price changes occurred during the year and the following summary shows the variations in prices of waste paper over the last seven years. :—

Baled waste paper	Dec. 1951	£16. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1952	5. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1953	4. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1955	8. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1956	6. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1957	6. 10s.	per ton
Unbaled waste paper	Dec. 1951	£13. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1952	3. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1953	1. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1954	3. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1955	5. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1956	3. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1957	3. 0s.	per ton
Books and magazines	Dec. 1951	£16. 15s.	per ton
	Dec. 1952	6. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1953	3. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1955	7. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1956	4. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1957	4. 10s.	per ton
Newspapers ..	Dec. 1951	£18. 5s.	per ton
	Dec. 1952	6. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1953	3. 10s.	per ton
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1955	8. 0s.	per ton
	Dec. 1956	5. 5s.	per ton
	Dec. 1957	6. 0s.	per ton

CAR PARKS.

The Fordingbridge Car Park provides parking accommodation for 65 cars and the Ringwood Car Park for some 100 cars.

Resurfacing and fencing works at Ringwood were deferred until 1958 to enable the County Council to carry out surfacing in tar-macadam on behalf of the Council.

CATTLE POUND.

The Police impounded a total of 107 animals in the Ringwood Pound during the year compared with 89 in 1956, 101 in 1955 and 53 in 1954.

The total fees paid in respect of the 107 animals amounted to £74. 7s. 6d. The impounding fees are £2. per owner for each impounding irrespective of the number impounded.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Public Conveniences at Ringwood have been well maintained; the glazed wall tiling carried out last year has materially assisted in this.

The Council contributes towards the cost of maintaining conveniences for use by the public at The Greyhound Hotel and the New Inn, Fordingbridge, and The Lamb Inn, Ringwood; this arrangement will cease in 1958 in so far as The Lamb Inn is concerned.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Number of premises on register	105		
Number of petroleum spirit licences	103	gallonage licensed	253,915
Number of petroleum mixtures	„ 8	„ „	5,160
Number of carbide of calcium	„ 2	amount licensed	7 cwt.
Number of new petrol applications during the year		14 in respect of	22,325 gallons
Inspections made	..	219	

The Council is responsible for seeing that petroleum spirit, mixtures, etc., are stored in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928 the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles, etc.) Regulations, 1929 and the Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.

The Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations, 1957 came into operation on the 1st July. They embody the recommendations contained in the report on the violent explosion at a Bristol Garage which occurred while a tanker was delivering petrol and resulted in 11 people being killed and 12 injured.

A new Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions for the storage of Petroleum Spirit issued by the Home Office was considered by the Public Health and General Purposes Committee in May and it was agreed that all new applications for licenses should be dealt with in accordance with the recommendations contained in the code..

BUILDING BYELAWS.

PLANS.

Number of plans received	..	513
Number of plans approved	..	488
Number of plans rejected	..	20
Number of plans no objection	..	5

The classification of the approved plans is as follows:-

204 plans in respect of 336 dwellings .

107 plans in respect of structural alterations and additions.

- 100 plans in respect of garages.
- 59 plans in respect of drainage works
- 12 plans in respect of agricultural buildings
- 17 plans in respect of conversions.

INSPECTIONS.

Foundations	..	..	320
Oversite	..	..	214
Damp proof courses	..	..	290
Water tests to drains	..	..	512
Completed works	..	..	411
Sewer connections	..	..	36
Miscellaneous inspections	..	..	1291

CONTRAVENTIONS.

Contravention of Building Byelaws	127
Number of informal notices served	87

It was necessary to take Statutory action under Section 65 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of a material change of use, i.e., a building converted into a dwelling without the submission of plans and in contravention of numerous byelaws.

The Thermal Insulation (Industrial Buildings) Act, 1957 received Royal Assent in July and has the object of securing greater efficiency in the use of fuel and provides for the compulsory insulation of new factories and extensions to existing factories.

NEW STREET BYELAWS.

6 plans were received and 74 inspections made in connection with works of laying out new streets.

The wide variation in standards of widths of carriageways and footways required by Byelaws and by the Planning Authority create a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs for all concerned. In 1956 the County Council was asked to consider the making of an Order under Section 13 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which would have the effect of superseding certain byelaws relating to widths of carriageways and footways.

The Building Byelaws Committee were concerned over the deplorable condition of gravel roads on some new estates and representations were made to the County Council with regard to the adoption of the New Street Act, 1951 and to amending usual planning conditions respecting roadworks in order that greater control could be obtained over estate developers.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

Development applications are dealt with by my department together with the work of maintaining the Planning Register and Planning Index Maps. Enquirers are advised on planning matters generally and inspections made on behalf of the Planning Authority to whom reports are furnished on known contraventions.

During the year 313 visits and inspections were made.

ESTATE MAINTENANCE.

At the 31st December, 1957 the Council had a total of 1103 occupied dwellings made up as follows:—

Permanent Houses	..	..	924
Prefabricated houses	..	..	50
Converted huts (family units)	..	..	129
			<hr/>
			1103

The Council's permanent houses and prefabricated bungalows are sited as follows:—

Parish	Locality	Traditional	Prefabricated
Breamore	St. George's Cottages	4	
Burley	Campden House	2	
	Warnes Lane	35	6
	Chapel Haye	6	
Christchurch East	Burnt House Lane, Bransgore	20	
	Jopps Corner, Burton	7	
	Footners Lane, Burton	14	6
	Burton Green	4	
	Neacroft	4	
	Westbury Close, Bransgore	32	
	Derritt Lane, Bransgore		6
	Thorney Hill	14	
	Meyrick Close	18	
Damerham	West Park Lane	23	
	South End	4	
	High Street	2	
Ellingham	Blashford	4	
Fordingbridge	The Bartons	23	
	Lower Bartons	26	
	St. George's Road and Salisbury Road	20	
	Waverley Road	26	
	Pennys Lane	8	13
	Jubilee Close	16	
	Picket Close	54	
	Tinkers Cross	2	
	Roundhill	2	
Hale	St. George's Cottages	14	
Harbridge & Ibsley	Nil		
Hurn	Moors Close	54	
Martin	Townsend	12	
	St. George's Cottages	12	
Ringwood	Hurst Road	42	
	Fairlie Park	36	
	Fairlie Estate	3	
	Manor Road	35	9
	Cloughs Road	8	
	Merryweather	24	
	Eastfield Lane	2	4
	Hightown	8	
	Wessex Estate	92	
	Queens Way	71	
	Winston Way	48	
	Moortown	10	
	66 & 68 Christchurch Road and 55, Bickerley	3	

Parish	Locality	Traditional	Prefabricated
Rockbourne	Mintys Hill	6	
	Bourne Cottages	6	
	Whipps Hill	2	
Sopley	Avon	4	
	Ripley	2	
St. Leonards & St. Ives	Ashley	4	
	Woolsbridge Road	16	
	Glenives Close and The Close	10	6
	Old School	1	
Whitsbury	Lower Grove	11	
Woodgreen	Hill Close	12	
	St. George's Cottages	6	

The maintenance of these scattered estates entailed a total of 3724 visits and inspections during the year as follows:—

Permanent Houses	..	..	2915
Prefabricated bungalows	..	..	102
Converted huts	..	..	673
Other Council Property	..	..	34
			<hr/>
			3724

At the end of the year the position regarding this Council's occupied family units in converted huts was as follows:—

Holmsley (Christchurch East Parish)			25
Ibsley (Harbridge and Ibsley Parish)			36
Ibsley (Ellingham Parish)	..	..	6
Hurn (Hurn Parish)	..	..	37
Hurn (Sopley Parish)	..	..	25
			<hr/>
			129

During the year 62 new Council Houses were completed and occupied and 88 huts (family units) were taken out of use for housing purposes. One hut site was cleared (Ferndale Crescent, Hurn). 85 inspections were made in connection with site works.

The Council gave serious consideration to the re-housing of the 'problem families' occupying Council huts at Ibsley and Holmsley and numerous sites for the erection of permanent houses for these families were surveyed in the areas of Woodgreen, Breamore, Godshill and Thorney Hill. Very strong protests were made by the residents in these areas upon hearing of the Council's proposals; negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of one site at Thorney Hill to accommodate six dwellings.

Drainage schemes on numerous estates where effluent disposal is dependant upon land irrigation continued to present serious problems because of the low permeability factor of subsoils. On one

site of six houses it proved necessary to seal off the irrigation systems and to resort to weekly exhausting of the tanks at a cost of nearly £8. per week. 109 visits and inspections were made regarding sewage disposal plants on estates.

In connection with drainage problems on estates in the Bransgore area, the Council have re-opened negotiations for the use of the R.A.F. sewage disposal works at Sopley.

The Council agreed to the preparation of schemes for the provision of water closets, new drainage systems and hot water supply for the thirty-two pre-war houses which remain with earth closets. These houses are at Breamore, Damerham, Martin, Neacroft, Ripley and Woodgreen and in view of the exceptionally high Bank Rate and restrictions on capital expenditure the works of improvement were again deferred.

During the year a survey was carried out in connection with the provision of garages and hard standing covering some 864 dwellings on 51 estates. The results showed 153 tenants on 31 sites required garages; this is in addition to 33 garages already built by the Council and 38 provided by tenants.

The nuisance from the parking of lorries on estates during evenings and week-ends by tenant-drivers permitted by their employers to take lorries home, became so acute that the Housing Committee resolved that no lorries were to be allowed to park overnight on estates and this is being enforced with the co-operation of the owners of the vehicles.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT. SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACTS.

105 visits and inspections were made in connection with the total of 90 dwellings constructed or purchased with assistance under these Acts since 1941.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was found necessary to institute proceedings in five instances as follows:—

R. W. Jolliffe Building rear of Ashley Cottages, Ringwood (Building Byelaws material change of use).	Sec. 65 P.H.A.	Absolute discharge - Council awarded £3. 3s. 0d. costs
P. Buttle Slaughterhouse, High Street, Fordingbridge (Slaughter of calf)	Sec. 62 Food & Drugs Act, 1955 Sec. 3 Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 Sec. 1 Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 Article 8 Public Health Meat Regulations 1924	Fine £10 Fine £2 Fine £2 Fine £5 — Council awarded £3. 3s 0d costs

Western Foundry Supplies Ltd., Clay Grinding Works, Station Yard, Ringwood. (Dust Nuisance)	Sec. 92-94 P.H.A., 1936	Nuisance Order made and Council awarded £12. 9s. costs.
Southern Counties Stores, Ringwood (Sale of Pork Pie)	Sec. 2 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.	Fines of £5 each on Manager and Company and Council awarded costs of £9 5s. 6d.
Tudor Rose Farm Ltd., Bickerley Common, Ringwood (Unlicensed site for moveable dwellings)	Sec. 269 P.H.A., 1936	Fine £2 - Council awarded £5. costs

STAFF.

Mr. C. Kerswill terminated his services as Additional Public Health Inspector on the 29th June; Mr. D. W. Sillifant was appointed in his place and commenced duties on the 21st August.

CONCLUSION.

I am indebted to Miss Hilary Christy, Ringwood, for records of rainfall which she has supplied for many years.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, Mr. F. W. Pilbrow and Dr. D. J. N. McNab for their confidence and support, and the staff of my department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.